DARK HORSE COMICS

#5

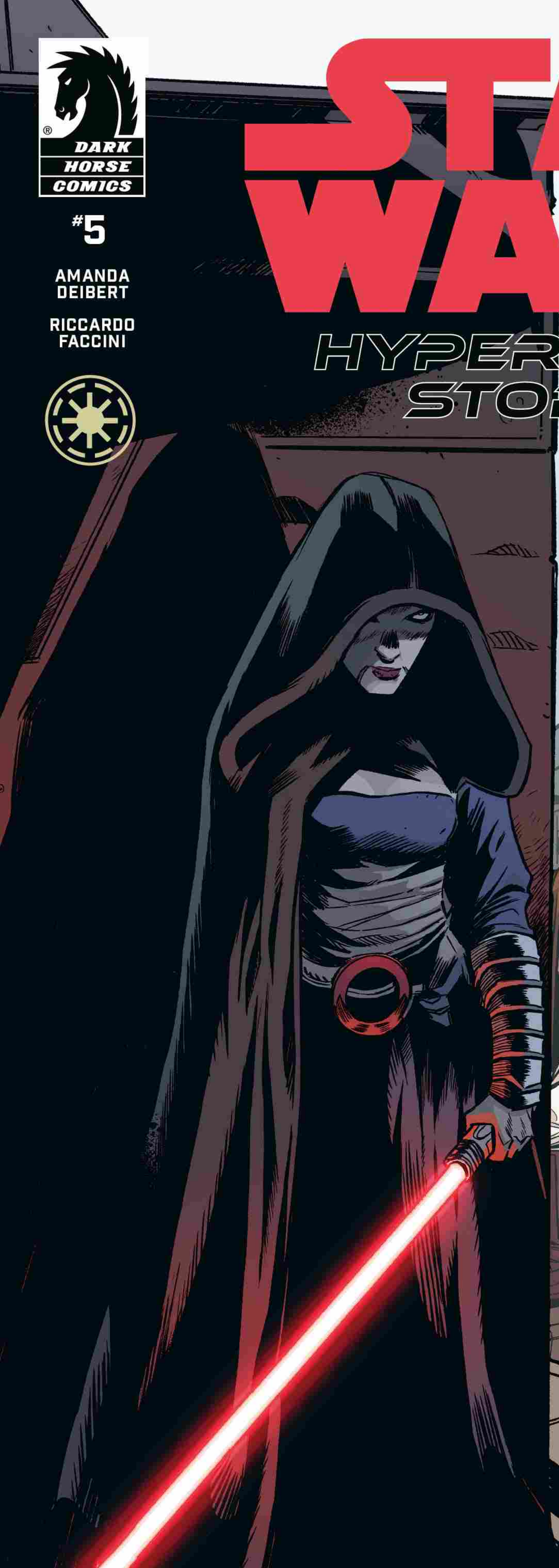
AMANDA DEIBERT

RICCARDO FACCINI

STAR WARS™

HYPERSPACE STORIES

DANGER LURKS AROUND EVERY CORNER!



Disney

STAR WARS™

HYPERSPACE STORIES

“The Betrayal”

Written by
AMANDA DEIBERT

Pencils and Inks by
RICCARDO FACCINI

Colors by
DAN JACKSON

Letters by Comicraft’s
TYLER SMITH and
JIMMY BETANCOURT

Cover Art by
RICCARDO FACCINI
with **DAN JACKSON**

Variant Cover Art by
CARY NORD

This story takes place during the Fall of the Jedi Era.

Publisher **MIKE RICHARDSON** Editor **MATT DRYER** Assistant Editor **SANJAY DHARAWAT**
Designer **ANITA MAGAÑA** Digital Art Technician **SAMANTHA HUMMER**

FOR LUCASFILM: Creative Director **MICHAEL SIGLAIN** Senior Editor **ROBERT SIMPSON** Art Director **TROY ALDERS**
Lucasfilm Story Group **MATT MARTIN**, **PABLO HIDALGO**, and **EMILY SHKOUKANI** Creative Art Manager **PHIL SZOSTAK**

Facebook.com/DarkHorseComics | Twitter.com/DarkHorseComics | DarkHorse.com | Advertising Sales: ads@darkhorse.com | Comic Shop Locator Service: visit comicshoplocator.com
Star Wars: Hyperspace Stories #5, May 2023. Published by Dark Horse Comics LLC, 10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, Oregon 97222. Star Wars: Hyperspace Stories © 2022 Lucasfilm Ltd. & ® or TM. All Rights Reserved. Used Under Authorization. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Dark Horse Comics LLC. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author’s imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental. Dark Horse Comics® and the Dark Horse logo are trademarks of Dark Horse Comics LLC, registered in various categories and countries. Printed in Canada.

REPUBLIC COMMAND CENTER
OUTPOST 716

CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP

DID YOU *HEAR* THAT?

I DON'T HEAR *ANYTHING.*

I GUESS IT'S NOTHING.

FSSHHHH!

VWAAAMMM

I DO SO WISH *SOMEONE* WOULD OFFER A *CHALLENGE.*

HAPPY TO OBLIGE.

ASAJJ VENTRESS. WE SHOULD HAVE GUESSED.

I SEE MY *REPUTATION* PRECEDES ME, JEDI. YOU'LL HAVE TO PARDON ME IF I DIDN'T *BOTHER* TO LEARN YOUR NAME.

IT'S MAYANKA CATRINE, BUT YOU CAN CALL ME "THE *LAST JEDI* I FACED BEFORE MY CAPTURE."

VRUUOMMMMMMMUMM FSSHHHH!

I RECOGNIZE DOOKU'S STYLE--

I FIGHT WITH *MY* OWN STYLE.

YES, IT'S CLEAR HE HASN'T TAUGHT YOU *EVERYTHING* HE KNOWS.

DON'T YOU--

AGUSTIN, NOW!

ZZZZZPPPPPPP

GREAT WORK, PADAWAN.

THANK YOU, MASTER CATRINE.

LATER...

IT'S BEEN *DAYS*. YOU SHOULD EAT SOMETHING.

DON'T BOTHER, SHE STAYS ALIVE THROUGH *SPITE* ALONE.

GENERAL CATRINE WANTED HER WELL TAKEN CARE OF WHILE SHE IS AWAY ON HER MISSION.

SO, YOU'RE SAYING...

THE JEDI ARE *GONE?*

WE WILL HAVE CONTROL OF THE OUTPOST SOON, *MY LORD.*

EVEN *GENERAL GRIEVOUS* COULD NOT TAKE THAT COMMAND CENTER. YOU ARE PLACING A LOT OF FAITH IN AN ASSASSIN, *COUNT DOOKU.*

IT WOULD BE *DISAPPOINTING* TO LEARN FONDNESS HAS CLOUDED YOUR JUDGMENT.

SHE IS *GIFTED* AND IF SHE FAILS... *EXPENDABLE.*

WE SHALL SEE.

I HOPE I DIDN'T LEAVE YOU *WAITING* TOO LONG.

SO, YOUR LITTLE *RUSE* WORKED. I ASSUME YOU CAPTURED THE OUTPOST?

QUITE EASILY. DID YOU DOUBT ME?

AND THE JEDI...?

I DEFEATED THEIR PLANS.

NOW YOU SHALL GIVE ME THE TITLE OF *SITH LORD!*

NO. YOU DESTROYED THEIR OUTPOST BUT YOU DID NOT DEFEAT *THEM.*

YOU MUST *PROVE* YOURSELF WORTHY.

I HAVE *MORE* THAN DONE SO. EVEN GRIEVOUS COULDN'T--

I WILL TELL YOU WHEN YOU HAVE DONE SO.

THEN TELL ME WHAT I MUST DO TO PROVE MYSELF.

WELL, THERE IS *ONE* THING THAT EVEN *LORD SIDIOUS* HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND--AN ANCIENT JEDI ARTIFACT WHICH CONTINUES TO ELUDE HIM. IF WE WERE TO TAKE POSSESSION OF IT *TOGETHER...*

I'M INTRIGUED.

VERY GOOD. USE THE *DARK SIDE*, IT WILL SHOW US THE WAY.

IS THIS REALLY ALL WE HAVE TO GO ON? A LEGEND AND *THE FORCE?*

AHHHHHHHHHHH

ZZZZPPPPPPP

DO NOT BE INSOLENT. I AM YOUR *MASTER.*

THAT WILL BE THE *LAST TIME* YOU...

WAIT...

I FEEL SOMETHING... AN *ENERGY*... I CAN FEEL IT PULLING ME.

THE *HATRED* HELPS. ONE DAY YOU WILL TRULY LEARN. *NOW GO!*

"YOU MAY BEGIN YOUR SEARCH AMONG THE RUINS OF THE JEDI TEMPLE ON THE MOON OF STAGGEC, ON THE OUTER RIM."

THE ARTIFACT IS NO LONGER HERE, BUT IT *WAS.* I CAN FEEL IT.

I'M UNIMPRESSED BY MERE *ATTEMPTS.* DON'T CONTACT ME UNTIL YOU'VE *FOUND* IT. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD GO TO THE LAST *KNOWN* WHEREABOUTS. GENERAL GRIEVOUS GOT VERY CLOSE ONCE--

SO I WAS YOUR SECOND CHOICE IN CLOSE CONFIDANTS.

HE FAILED ME. IF YOU VALUE YOUR OWN LIFE, YOU WILL *NOT,* ASSASSIN.

RUMBLE RUMBLE

WE'LL RULE, *TOGETHER--*

--YET ONLY *ONE* OF US TAKES THE RISKS!

SMASH

OUTSIDE

FREEZE! DON'T MOVE!

JUST WHERE *CHANCELLOR PALPATINE* GOT WORD SHE WOULD BE.

BROTHERS, ADVANCE!

THIS IS QUITE THE WELCOME.

ATTACK!

VMMMM

PITY, THAT WAS *HARDLY* A WORKOUT.

IT WAS AN AMBUSH. I SURVIVED.

SO IT SEEMS.

IT SEEMS *SOMEONE* SLIPPED INFORMATION TO CHANCELLOR PALPATINE THAT I WOULD BE COMING TO CLEAN UP GRIEVOUS'S MESS... *AGAIN.*

ARE YOU IMPLYING I HAVE A *SPY* IN MY MIDST?

THAT IS *ONE* THEORY.

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR NEXT WORDS, ASSASSIN, OR THEY COULD BE YOUR *LAST.*

I WOULD NEVER DREAM OF DISRESPECTING *YOU.* IT JUST SEEMS SOMEONE IS MORE INTERESTED IN FINDING ME *DEAD* THAN ALLOWING ME TO FIND THIS ARTIFACT.

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER IT A *TEST...* ONE A SITH LORD WOULD *EASILY* MASTER.

PERHAPS.

I CAN FEEL ITS ENERGY... KASHYYYK... NO... IT WAS THERE... BUT...

YES... PERHAPS...

NABOO, MID RIM

MAMA! LOOKY, JEDI!

BLAST! WHAT ARE *THEY* DOING HERE?!

WATCH IT OR YOU'LL BE *BANTHA FODDER.*

AHH!!

WAIT! THAT DOLL! WHERE DID YOU GET IT!

GIVE IT TO ME!

NO! ITSA MINE! MESA FIND IT!

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM HERE-- VENTRESS?!

WAIT! DON'T FOLLOW HER!

ANAKIN!

I LOST HER.

AND NOW WE SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN KENOBI'S LITTLE PET *FAILS* HIM.

I TOLD YOU TO WAIT!

I *ALMOST* HAD HER!

NOW THE IMPETUOUS *WELP* WILL GET WHAT HE *DESERVES.*

IF YOU HAD *WAITED* FOR ME TO *HELP* YOU, WE WOULD HAVE HAD HER.

I AM A JEDI KNIGHT NOW! I SHOULD HAVE HAD HER MYSELF!

BUT INSTEAD YOU *FAILED*. NOW YOUR MASTER WILL *PUNISH* YOU.

NO, REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING. SOMETIMES A JEDI MEANS *SLOWING DOWN* AND *TRUSTING* OTHER PEOPLE.

THE *IMPORTANT* THING TO ME IS THAT YOU DON'T GET YOURSELF KILLED. WELL, THAT AND WE SHOULD PROBABLY FIND VENTRESS.

WHAT? PATHETIC. SUCH WEAKNESS.

AND NOW...

THERE YOU ARE.

AHHHHH!!

CLOSE YOUR MOUTH OR YOU'LL NEVER OPEN IT AGAIN.

THAT'S BETTER.

HERE! YOUSA TAKE!

MMM...NO KEEP YOUR WORTHLESS TOY.

YOU HAVE *RETURNED.* WHICH MEANS YOU HAVE LOCATED THE ARTIFACT.

WELL--

WELL, *WHERE* IS IT?

I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

I WAS SO CLOSE. CLOSER THAN *YOU* HAVE EVER BEEN.

YOU WILL *NEVER* BE A SITH LORD.

GET OUT OF MY SIGHT. I SENT YOU ON A MISSION. THE *ONLY THING* THAT MATTERS TO ME... IS THAT YOU *SUCCEED.*

I *KNOW*... AND THAT'S WHY I WILL NEVER GIVE YOU WHAT YOU DESIRE.

THE END

NEXT ISSUE COMING JULY 5TH!